

Prague to host Warsaw Pact summit

VIENNA (R) — A summit meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders will be held in Prague in the first half of January, the official Czechoslovak Cereka News Agency announced Wednesday. No exact timing was given but diplomatic sources in the Czechoslovak capital said Jan. 4 and 5 were the probable dates and the meeting would be attended by new Kremlin leader Yuri Andropov. The session of the political consultative committee of the seven-nation military alliance was originally scheduled for this month but was postponed because of the death last month of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

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Holiday declared

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 28 on the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's birthday, according to an announcement by Acting Prime Minister Saleh Massadeh Wednesday.

Jordan proposes new date for meeting on refugees

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan has proposed that a conference for countries hosting Palestinian refugees be held on Jan. 3 instead of Jan. 17. A spokesman for the Arab League here said the request was made in view of the fact that Dec. 17 is the date for a meeting in Vienna of the Advisory Council of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA).

NCC's Financial Committee continues talks on 1983 budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Consultative Council's (NCC) Administrative and Financial Committee Wednesday continued its discussion of the 1983 fiscal budget. The committee which met under the chairmanship of Khalil Al Salem, was attended by Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Saleh Massadeh, NCC Speaker Suleiman Arar and Budget Department Director Sami Qamouh.

No alcoholic drinks on Christmas in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM (R) — Bethlehem is to have a dry Christmas. Pilgrims visiting Christ's birthplace have been banned from taking alcoholic drinks and no alcohol will be on sale on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Israeli authorities announced the 48-hour ban following complaints of rowdy behaviour among Christmas crowds in recent years.

Afghan brigadier defects to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — A brigadier from Afghanistan's Defence Ministry has defected to Pakistan. Radio Pakistan reported Wednesday. It identified the official as Brigadier engineer Abdul Mannan, a director-general in the ministry, but did not say when he entered Pakistan. According to the radio, the brigadier said the Afghan army was now down to 20,000 men, from an estimated 80,000 before the 1978 Marxist takeover, and many soldiers had deserted, joined anti-government guerrillas or been killed fighting them.

Mrs. Thatcher visits Northern Ireland

BELFAST (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher flew to Northern Ireland Wednesday on a surprise Christmas visit. Her first stop after arriving from London was the seaside town of Bangor, east of Belfast, where she toured the main street and chatted with shoppers. As usual, no prior announcement was made of the visit to guard against attacks by Irish guerrilla groups opposed to British rule.

Portuguese labour union calls for nationwide strike

LISBON (R) — Portugal's Communist-dominated labour movement called Wednesday for a wave of nationwide rallies to press for early general elections after the fall of Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemão's right-wing government. Portugal's largest trade union confederation, the Communist-controlled CGTP-Intersindical, said it would hold 19 demonstrations throughout the country in the next 48 hours to demand the dissolution of parliament.

Hussein, U.S. military leaders discuss arms sale to Jordan

King continues talks in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — King Hussein met the U.S. military joint chiefs of staff Wednesday to discuss possible new American arms sales to Jordan.

The King held talks Tuesday with President Reagan and other U.S. leaders. After mostly private engagements Wednesday he is to see Mr. Reagan again Thursday before leaving Washington. But U.S. officials cautioned in advance against expecting major announcements such as a decision by Jordan to join the Middle East peace process. The officials said both the peace talks and possible U.S. arms sales to Jordan appeared to be caught up in a vicious circle of actions and reactions, conditions and preconditions.

King Hussein made clear Tuesday he would not join the peace process, as envisaged in Mr. Reagan's Sept. 1 initiative, without support from other Arab governments and the Palestinians. But this in turn would not come unless Israel halted settlement activity which appears aimed at de facto annexation of the West Bank. Such de facto annexation of the area would leave nothing of substance to negotiate about in future talks. At the same time, U.S. officials said, President Reagan feels he

cannot put pressure on Israel to revive the Palestinian autonomy talks unless he can assure Prime Minister Menachem Begin that Jordan will join an expanded peace process. Mr. Reagan will not have another opportunity to make a direct attempt at bringing Israel around on the settlements issue until Mr. Begin visits Washington, which U.S. officials do not expect until late January or February. The president called for a freeze on new settlements in the areas Israel occupied in the 1967 war, but this proposal was categorically rejected by Israeli leaders. On arms as well, U.S. officials said the Reagan initiative was caught in a dilemma since Jordan was unlikely to join the peace process unless it felt militarily secure. Jordan has held off asking for the arms it wants such as advanced

F-16 jets and Hawk mobile air defence missiles until it is sure a request would not be turned down. Pentagon officials said the administration might be willing to ask for less advanced F-20 fighters and shoulder-launched Stinger missiles when Congress reconvenes in January. But they said the King might not accept this when Israel and some Arabs are getting first-line U.S. equipment. In any case, administration officials said, F-16s and Hawk missiles for Jordan will have to await a more propitious time. At the same time a Jordanian team led by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and a U.S. team led by Secretary of State George Shultz met for further talks on Wednesday. These talks were decided on at King Hussein's meeting with President Reagan on Tuesday.

Survivors say Israelis were in Shatila during massacre

BEIRUT, Lebanon (A.P.) — Contradicting official testimony in Israel, survivors of the September Palestinian massacres say Israeli soldiers were in the Shatila refugee camp during the killings. Three Palestinian women Ektifa Shallah, her 16-year-old daughter, Jamila, and their neighbour, Asemah Khalifa said the Israelis tried to protect women and children during the Sept. 16-18 slaughter by Lebanese Christian militiamen. The women told the Associated Press they talked to an Israeli soldier in front of their houses about 6 p.m. on the day the massacre began. Thursday, Sept. 16, and later that night saw up to 10 Israeli soldiers periodically coming and

going just inside the western edge of the camp. The Israelis talked on radios in Hebrew, they said, and conversed in heavily accented Arabic with Lebanese militiamen. Two Associated Press reporters interviewed more than a dozen survivors of the massacre, and Mrs. Khalifa, Mrs. Shallah and her daughter were the only ones who said they saw Israelis inside the Shatila camp. The others said they saw Israelis outside the camp Sept. 17 and 18 but none inside. Informed of the women's statements, an Israeli military command spokesman in Tel Aviv reiterated the Israelis' previous statements.

British high court rejects Labour Party challenge

LONDON (R) — Two high court judges have thrown out a legal challenge by leaders of Britain's opposition Labour Party in a ruling that could affect the result of Britain's next general election. Opposition leader Michael Foot and three other senior party officials, who were trying to block proposed changes to the political map of Britain, said they would appeal against the ruling. The changes, due to be applied next year, revise the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies, raising the number of seats in the House of Commons to 649 from the present 635. Political commentators have estimated that Labour could lose

up to 30 seats if Parliament accepts the recommendations of the government-appointed Boundaries Commission. The two judges refused to grant an injunction preventing the Commission presenting its recommendations to Home Secretary William Whitelaw. One judge, Sir Peter Oliver, said the Labour leaders' complaint, that the commission had failed to carry out its duty to achieve electoral equality, was ill-founded. The four Labour leaders said this way the party would have to win an extra 100 seats at the next election to secure an overall majority in Parliament.

PLO, 6 Arab ministers to meet in Rabat

RABAT (R) — Six Arab foreign ministers and a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative will meet here on January 21 to assess their efforts to promote an Arab peace plan for the Middle East, a Moroccan official said Wednesday. The committee, consisting of the foreign ministers of Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia,

Syria and Tunisia and a PLO representative, was set up by an Arab summit in Fez to promote the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. The official discounted a report in the Saudi daily Al Riyadh saying the heads of state of the members of the committee would meet in Morocco next week. He said

that the time was not appropriate for such a meeting. The committee has so far visited Washington, Paris, Moscow and Peking, and it is due to visit London in early February. The Arab plan proposes the creation of an independent Palestinian state and would indirectly recognise Israel within its pre-1967 borders.

Halhoul mayor ready to join in peace talks if requested by PLO

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mohammad Milhem, deported mayor of Halhoul, said Wednesday that he is ready to take part in talks for the establishment of peace in the Middle East if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "requests me to do so".

In an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i newspaper, Mr. Milhem said he would not be willing to act in this respect unless officially asked to do so "since I accept what the PLO accepts and reject what it rejects". "I do not think there is any Palestinian either inside or outside the occupied Arab territory who would accept to take part in peace talks unless requested to do so by the PLO", Mr. Milhem said.

"While on a visit to the United States, I was told that Washington would not accept any PLO representatives in the peace negotiations and that this view would be conveyed to all concerned parties," Mr. Milhem said.

Mr. Milhem, who returned from the U.S. visit recently, said that he had informed the Reagan administration that any person taking part in such talks should first obtain PLO approval.

"The peace making process cannot take place without participation of the Palestinian people whose sole and legitimate representative is the PLO which is the only party empowered to conduct negotiations on the future of the Palestinians", Mr. Milhem added. On King Hussein's current visit to the United States, Mr. Milhem



Mr. Mohammad Milhem

said that he preferred to wait and see its outcome "which no doubt King Hussein will announce upon his return home".

"I sincerely hope that the King's visit to Washington and his talks there will be characterised with the same spirit that marked the Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman," Mr. Milhem said.

He added that King Hussein is expected to brief the Americans on the outcome of his talks with PLO leaders.

The outcome of the King's visit and the work of the Arab League seven-member committee will be discussed by a mini-Arab summit soon, according to the mayor.

Asked on his views on the future political solution of the Middle East question, Mr. Milhem said: "I am optimistic in nature and this is enhanced by my people's determination and sacrifices in Lebanon and the occupied territory".

Artillery battles erupt around Shweifat

BEIRUT (R) — Artillery battles between rival Lebanese militias broke out Wednesday in the hills southeast of Beirut after five men were killed in a grenade attack. Lebanese radio stations reported. Reports from rightist and leftist stations said shells and rockets fell around the town of Shweifat close to Beirut Airport where the U.S. contingent of the three-nation peace force is based. The area, which is controlled by Israeli troops, has been a flashpoint recently in clashes between right-wing Christian militiamen and fighters of the

mainly-Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP). Each side accused the other of starting the fighting, but the names of the five men killed by a rocket-propelled grenade indicated they were Christians. The flare-up followed a day of relative calm in the troubled mountain region where scores of militiamen have been killed in sporadic clashes since the summer. The left-wing Murabitoun Radio said 11 Christian rightists were killed in the fighting, but the toll could not be immediately confirmed.

Security sources said the fighting quickly spread from Shweifat to Alei, 15 kilometres east of Beirut, and the town of Baissour to the south.

Local residents said hundreds of schoolchildren were trapped in the fighting in Shweifat and nearby towns but managed to reach their homes during a lull after appeals from their parents.

While Beirut has been relatively calm for the past three months, the mountains to the southeast have been torn by strife between the Christians and Druze.

Death toll rises to 145 in Caracas fire

CARACAS (R) — Another 13 bodies were recovered from blazing wreckage at Venezuela's Tacoa power station Wednesday bringing the known death toll to 145.

With the blaze now under control after a three-day battle, life began to return to normal in Caracas Wednesday. But there was still no indication of what caused the fire and President Luis Herrera Campins told reporters Wednesday there would be a full investigation.

So far, only 51 of the dead have been identified and officials said

they feared the death toll would rise further as rescue work continued. About 500 people have been injured and 1,000 made homeless.

The fire began at dawn on Sunday when a fuel storage tank exploded as it was being restocked. Another massive explosion in a second tank at midday killed scores of firemen, journalists and photographers.

Questioned about the fire at the presidential palace Wednesday, President Campins told reporters: "My government is compiling all the available information through

the investigative authorities and only after an exhaustive analysis will we be able to give an opinion."

For the last two days, power and water supplies have been rationed in Caracas which lost half of its normal power supply when the 1,700 megawatt Tacoa plant was shut down.

But things were slowly returning to normal and Hector Martinez, President of the State Power Company Cadafé, said it was hoped to have one 400 megawatt unit at Tacoa back in operation by the end of the week.

Iraqi rocket hits tanker, kills 2

LONDON (R) — The Captain and a Filipino crewman were killed when a Greek tanker loaded with kerosene was hit by an Iraqi rocket and caught fire at the weekend, Lloyds Shipping Intelligence said Wednesday.

Lloyds said the tanker Scampount was hit on Saturday as it sailed in convoy through the Khur-Musa straits at the head of the Gulf on its way to the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini and was reported to be still burning.

Flames shot 15 metres into the air and swiftly spread to the aft accommodation, Lloyds said, forcing the crew to abandon ship.

Lloyds named the captain as Athanasios Kambitsis. It said five of the 31 survivors were injured.

An Iraqi military communiqué said on Saturday that Iraqi naval units had destroyed four "naval targets" in the Gulf but a spokesman for the Iranian Oil Ministry told Reuters by telephone it had heard no reports of ships being hit.

Iraq, which has been at war with Iran for 27 months, has declared a military zone in the Gulf where ships heading for Iranian ports risked being attacked.

France denies aiding Iran's Kurdish rebels

PARIS (R) — France Wednesday denied an Iranian report saying that it had provided arms and other equipment to leftist guerrillas and Kurdish rebels fighting the Iranian government.

"We formally deny that France supplied arms or any other material to Iranian Kurds," an External Relations Ministry spokesman said.

He was commenting on a report by Iran's National News Agency IRNA that revolutionary guards had seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition, printing presses, radio equipment and papers showing links between rebel Kurds, Iranian leftist groups and France.

Relations between Tehran and Paris are strained because France is the exile home of Massoud Rajavi, leader of the radical Mujahedin Organisation,

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HOME NEWS

Zaben, Ramadan discuss ways to strengthen ties

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Ways for coordinating cooperation between Iraq and Jordan in telecommunications and other related affairs were discussed at a meeting here Wednesday between Jordanian Communications Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben and Iraqi Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan.

The two ministers reviewed joint transport and communications projects and current plans for improving telephone communications between the two countries.

Dr. Zaben, who is also board chairman of the Jordanian Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), voiced his admiration of Iraq's economic progress and development projects being implemented in the country in various fields.

He also praised "the strong Jordanian-Iraqi ties under the wise leadership of President Saddam Hussein and His Majesty King Hussein."

Mr. Ramadan said that Jordan and Iraq "have gone a long way" on the path of cooperation in the fields of transport and communications.

Mr. Ramadan, who is also a member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, stressed the importance of increasing cooperation between Jordan and Iraq and exchanging visits by senior officials from both countries.

Bridge planned on old Amman-Jerash road

AMMAN (Petra) — A bridge is to be set up on the Zarga River at a cost of JD 172,800 to help alleviate traffic congestion along the old Amman-Jerash road, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

UNEP team holds talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-member team from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) held talks here Wednesday with Mr. Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), to review the society's activities in environment-related affairs.

The team is currently conducting an exploratory study prior to introducing environmental education in Jordan. Its members are touring a number of countries in the Middle East to offer advice on the subject to developing nations. UNEP was established in 1972 by the U.N. General Assembly following recommendations of the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden.

JCO reviews plans for new firm to handle agricultural products

AMMAN (Petra) — Establishment of a company for marketing agricultural products was discussed at a meeting by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) board under the chairmanship of Husam Nabulsi. The company, to be owned jointly by the private and public sectors, will be entrusted with processing and marketing agricultural products, Mr. Nabulsi said.

A number of government-owned canning factories will constitute part of the government's capital in the projected company.

Ministry to hold Aqaba exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of Jordan's national industries and traditional crafts, organized by the Ministry of Tourism, is scheduled to open in Aqaba Sunday. On display at the four-day exhibition will be national costumes, traditional cooking utensils, embroidery, earthenware and other traditional crafts produced by Aqaba District towns and schools from various governorates. The exhibition is intended to highlight these crafts and industries and present folk crafts to foreign tourists, according to a ministry spokesman. He said that the ministry will have a special wing at the exhibition for displaying antiquities, publications about Jordan's archaeological attractions and tourist sites.

Jordanians sought for Salzburg seminar on international issues

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The assistant director of the Salzburg Seminar Organisation, Robert B. Hall, arrived in Amman Monday for a three-day visit to interview Jordanian applicants who wish to participate in the annual Salzburg seminar sessions.

The Salzburg Seminar, a private, independent, non-profit organization, was established in 1947 by three Harvard University students with the aim of bringing young Europeans and Americans together after the World War II.

Mr. Hall told the Jordan Times. As the world became more independent, he added, the Salzburg seminar expanded to developing countries, especially to the Middle East.

The one, two or three-week sessions aim to group together qualified people and to exchange professional viewpoints and experiences on various international issues, Mr. Hall said.

Continuous sessions run annually from mid-January to mid-September, he added.

In view of world contemporary issues which figure high in these seminars, the applicants should be qualified enough to speak on such subjects, Mr. Hall said, adding that the aim of his visits to various countries is to interview and select participants for the seminars.

Two to three participants are selected from each country and they are chosen on personal qualifications. "The selected participant should have an interest in a specific topic which is scheduled to run during the seminar," Mr. Hall clarified.

Participants come from various sectors including government offices, foreign institutions, research institutes and welfare organizations, Mr. Hall said.

The seminar is conducted at Schloss Leopoldsdorf in Salzburg, Austria.

"Governments of different countries, private institutions and individuals sponsor the seminar," Mr. Hall said.

He concluded that the number of Jordanian participants over the five past years were 15. "The Salzburg seminar is exciting for it brings together different nations of common interest."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Envoy presents credentials to Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Pakistan Majed Al Haj Hassan has presented his credentials to the King of Malaysia as Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Malaysia. In a speech at the presentation ceremony in Kuala Lumpur the Malaysian king voiced his interest in further cementing Jordanian-Malaysian ties.

Building banned near Ruseifa mines

ZARQA (Petra) — A plan prohibiting the establishment of houses or any other installations near the phosphates mines in Ruseifa has been endorsed by Zarqa District and Ruseifa Municipality. A spokesman for Ruseifa Municipality said that the land near the mines is unsuitable and unsafe for building and construction on it is also a considered encroachment on state property.

Ukrainian exhibition to open today

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of graphic arts is scheduled to be opened Thursday at the Soviet Cultural Centre to display works by young artists from the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The opening of the five-day exhibition will be attended by well-known Ukrainian artist Ura Rohashov.

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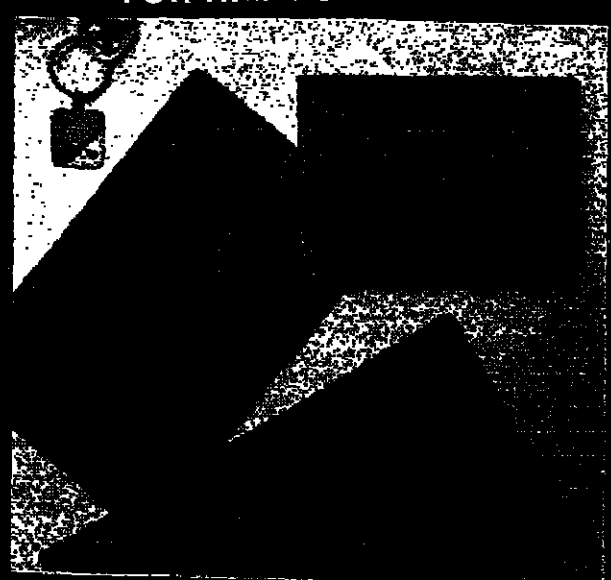
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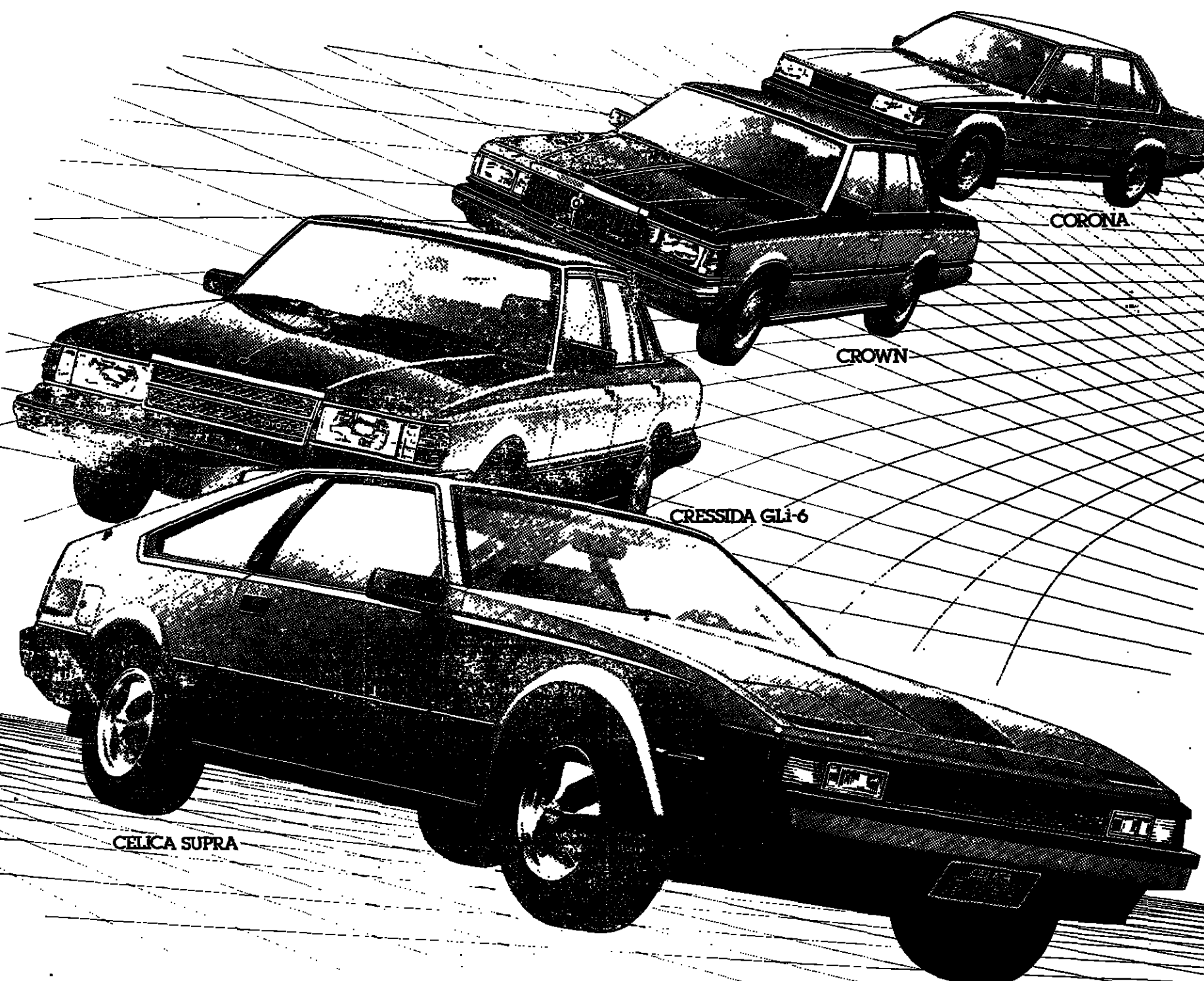
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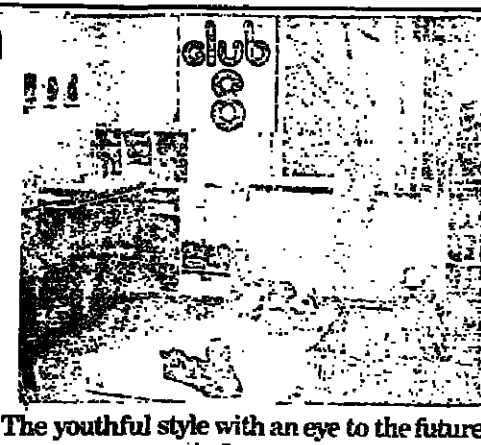
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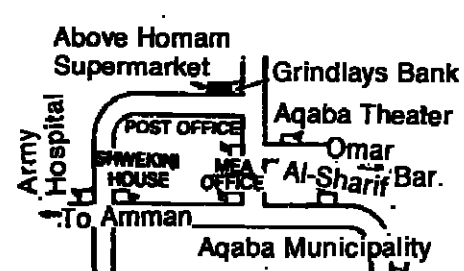
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Jordan Times

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Opportunity knocks

THE MAIN reason why Jordan supported but did not fully endorse U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative on the Middle East is our belief that the Sept. 1 proposals represented a big step towards a better U.S. understanding of the causes of the Palestine problem but did not go far enough to meet all legitimate Palestinian and Arab rights. Jordan's feelings about the U.S. move were echoed by most Arabs, and, based on this, almost everybody indicated a willingness to open a dialogue with Washington on the subject. The Palestinians, as represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), were no exception, although they had every right to firstly question the intentions of the Americans and consequently their seriousness.

Jordan saw for itself, and Arabs saw for Jordan, an important role to play in bridging the gap between the American and Arab positions. Neither was wrong, the U.S. and its allies saw the opening and the PLO did not want to waste any effort towards restoring Palestinian rights.

The next logical step was a serious and honest Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue that resulted not only in full understanding but also in declaring that Jordan and the PLO will go it together with joint moves to end, if possible and as soon as possible, the Arab-Israeli conflict once and for all.

Now, King Hussein's current visit to Washington and his crucial talks with President Reagan come within the context of such Palestinian-Jordanian agreement to pursue peace through talking to the Americans. Since Israel and its adamant rejection of such talks remain to be the main obstacle to achieving progress, the time is ripe for the U.S. to try and do something about it. Naturally, Washington has to start with the settlements on the West Bank if it wants to make a major difference to perceptions amongst Arabs but above all the Palestinians. If Jordan is supposed to play the central role in all of this, it is most likely that the U.S. has to set the stage for it. Today, opportunity knocks in Washington.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hussein-Reagan talks--a mutual concern for peace

The first round of talks between His Majesty King Hussein and President Reagan at the White House ended Tuesday evening, and the most outstanding feature of the meeting was the frankness that characterised the talks, and President Reagan's proclaimed personal commitment to realise a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The talks were supposed to continue for only one round, and its scheduled continuation for a second round manifests mutual concern by the two sides to continue a more elaborate dialogue aimed crystallising a clear perspective of the peace drive, and ways and means for promoting peace chances for the region.

It is obvious that a just solution to the Palestinian problem is the cornerstone for a durable peace, and this necessitates in the first place liberation of the occupied Palestinian territories and presupposes a stop to the Israeli settlements drive.

The de facto policies pursued by Israel should be imperatively dealt with responsibly, and the Palestinian people should be secured the chance of practising their legitimate rights if a real and stable peace is to be arrived at for the region.

The Arabs and all peace-loving people hope to see such considerations duly dealt with in the Jordanian-American talks, and it is hoped that the talks would reach common grounds by the Arab and American sides as well as activating an American effort that would remove Israeli obstacles from the way to peace.

The Arabs know how important the time factor is in the Middle East peace process, and have abundantly expressed their genuine concern for a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The present Hussein-Reagan talks are simply an evidence of real interest in peace, which is hoped to help get American attitudes closer to the moderate, and rational Arab attitude in search for peace in the region, with due consideration given to the time factor.

Al Dustour: Palestinian uprising--a reminder to the world

The Arab people in the occupied Palestinian territories have persistently emphasised two major facts with regard to their attitude towards the Israeli occupation.

The first is their absolute commitment to resist the occupation in all possible ways, no matter what the cost would be.

The second is that Israeli schemes to force the Palestinians out of their homeland, and absorb the remaining rest can in no way be realised at a reasonable price.

Against these two facts, the unceasing resistance by the occupied territories masses have invariably been an outspoken expression of their rejection of occupation policies. The present uprising witnessed

by Palestinian cities, village and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a convincing evidence of the Palestinian people's determination to foil Israeli attempts to convince the world of its ability to control the occupied territories smoothly, and that things are being straightened up. The mass demonstrations and daily clashes with the occupation forces plainly refute Israeli pretences and attempts at minimising the significance of the Palestinian problem.

The present courageous nation-wide resistance to occupation in Palestinian territories also stands out as an open message to the world public opinion in general, and to the U.S. in particular, and as a reminder of the real state of things.

Last visit to Africa by Chinese premier was 19 years ago China re-emphasises links with other Third World countries

By Michael Rank
 Reuter

PEKING — Premier Zhao Ziyang began a 10-nation tour of Africa on Dec. 20, at a time when China is re-emphasising its links with other Third World countries. It will be the first African visit by a Chinese premier since the late Chou Enlai went there 19 years ago.

Officials have in recent months strongly stressed China's role as a developing country independent of either superpower, after several years during which Peking took a pro-American line. As the relationship with Washington has soured over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, China has tended to denounce both the United States and the Soviet Union as expansionist and to stress that it is a member of the Third World.

Mr. Zhao told African ambassadors in Peking on Dec. 4 that his trip "shows that China attaches great importance to developing its

friendship and cooperation with African and Third World countries."

The premier's tour begins in Egypt, from where he goes to Algeria, Morocco, Guinea, the Congo, Zaire, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe — mainly Non-aligned or pro-Western states.

Western diplomats said there were two significant omissions from Mr. Zhao's itinerary. They were able to offer no explanation for why he was not going to Nigeria, the richest country in black Africa, or to Tripoli, in view of Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi's visit to Peking in October.

Diplomats said Mr. Zhao's trip was intended to strengthen China's links with developing countries and to demonstrate its commitment to ending white supremacy in South Africa and Namibia.

"African countries don't look at China as an economic or political model any more but they do look to it for modest economic and political support," one diplomat said.

Diplomatic sources said the main problem in Sino-African relations was probably a large trade imbalance in China's favour.

This totalled 958.2 million yuan (\$479 million) in the first half of this year, according to official Chinese statistics. Diplomats said that given the high African demand for basic Chinese consumer goods and textiles there was no obvious way of bridging the gap.

Aid budget slashed

Egypt has the largest deficit of any African country, amounting to 234.7 million yuan (\$117 million) in the first six months of 1982.

Diplomatic sources said Africa absorbed about half of China's foreign aid budget, now running at about \$200 million annually. The aid budget has recently been slashed as part of all round spending cuts and it is considerably less than in the 1960s and 1970s when aid was one of the main means by which Peking tried to win friends. Chinese assistance to Africa

now consists mainly of light industrial, agricultural and medical projects rather than large-scale schemes such as the Tanzania-Zambia railway which it built with a \$680 million interest-free loan in the 1970s.

In Dar Es Salaam and Lusaka, Mr. Zhao is expected to discuss problems in running the railway, which is in disrepair, and repayments on the loan which were due to start next month. Zambian diplomats in Peking declined to comment on reports that repayments have been deferred until 1983.

In Cairo, Mr. Zhao is expected to discuss the Middle East, a topic on which China and Egypt broadly agree.

China has long regarded Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, who last visited Peking in May, as one of its closest friends in Africa. Mr. Mugabe's Patriotic Front guerrillas were armed with Chinese weapons during the war against white domination in the former British colony of Rhodesia, and China has expressed

deep satisfaction at the prime minister's anti-Soviet stance.

Diplomatic sources said ways of combating South African apartheid and achieving independence for Namibia would loom high on the agenda during Mr. Zhao's visit to Zimbabwe.

Morocco, Zaire and Kenya are three of the most pro-Western countries on Mr. Zhao's tour. In those countries the premier is expected to discuss ways of combating Soviet influence which China believes is growing daily in Africa.

President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire is a frequent visitor to China, having last come to Peking in March. In Kenya, Mr. Zhao will be paying a return visit for President Daniel arap Moi's seven-day stay in China in 1980.

Diplomats said Mr. Zhao's visit to Guinea appeared to be mainly symbolic, as it was the first African nation to recognise China in 1959, while his stay in the Congo reciprocates a tour of China President Denis Sassou-Nguesso made in 1980.

The emotional question of German nationhood

By Peter Millar
 Reuter

EAST BERLIN — East and West Germany face the 10th anniversary of the treaty establishing relations between them with those relations still mutually unsatisfactory and a new hint of cold war vocabulary in the air.

The "basic treaty", as it is commonly referred to, promised an era of new beginnings when it was signed on Dec. 21, 1972. But inter-German relations have been beset by the same old setbacks because that treaty did not alter fundamentally irreconcilable viewpoints on the question of German nationhood. For East Germany, however, it was a door to come in from the cold to international recognition. For both states it meant membership of the United Nations and for Bonn it was the end of a political fairyland in which the separate Communist state just did not exist.

But it was 11 years before the 1970 meetings between leaders of both states on German soil were repeated and tension on the world's ideological front line, across which they face, has increased.

With deployment of new American missiles in West Germany due next year, and a new Conservative government in Bonn, even the fragile belief that the two Germanies can act as messengers between the superpowers has been badly shaken. The key problem, however, is still the emotional question of nationality.

In a letter to East Berlin sent the day the treaty was signed, the Bonn government said: "This does not contradict the political goal of the Federal Republic of

Germany that the German people, under peaceful circumstances and in a free vote, may again attain their unity." Although reunification was not ruled out by East Berlin at one point in the 1950s, it is now totally rejected and Bonn is accused of Nazi-style "dreams of a greater German Reich".

The official press uses this repeatedly to explain West German support for the banned Polish trade union Solidarity as an attempt to undermine the Warsaw government in the hope of one day regaining lost German land now in Poland. The East German anthem, played so often at modern olympics to honour the country's astonishing athletes, is never sung at home because it refers to "Germany indivisible fatherland."

National unity

Since Chancellor Helmut Kohl came to power in Bonn last October, his repeated references to national unity and the symbolism for Germany as a whole of the divided city of Berlin have provoked harsh criticism from the East.

In his first major statement in parliament, Mr. Kohl said: "Walls, barbed wire and orders to shoot are not and cannot be the last word between East and West, in Germany, Europe and the world."

The East ignored this, but not Mr. Kohl's statement that the alliance with the United States was the kernel of German national policy. A sharp reminder in the official East German Communist daily Neues Deutschland said: "Mr. Kohl speaks as federal cha-

ncellor only of the Federal Republic."

The comment was a sharp reminder that after 23 years in the void of non-recognition by all but its Communist allies, East Germany still smarts under an inferiority complex. Bonn, however, has at least promised that the treaty, which sprang from the "Ostpolitik" of realistic reconciliation sponsored by the Social Democrats under Willy Brandt, will be adhered to. But it wants more concessions from East Berlin.

East Germans can travel to the West only on the most pressing family occasions and then not always. In October 1980, the East Berlin government dramatically increased the minimum amount of money Western visitors must exchange for each day of their stay. Bonn protested this was contrary to the spirit of the treaty and effectively prevented poor West Germans from visiting their relatives in the East.

That same October, East German Communist Party leader

Erich Honecker made a speech in the small town of Gera making unrealistic demands for quick improvement in relations with Bonn. These included upgrading diplomatic missions established by the 1972 treaty to full embassy status, and — most important — recognition of East German citizenship. For, although the basic treaty recognised the existence of two states, for Bonn there is still only one German nationality and so East Germans reaching the West are automatically entitled to (Federal West) German passports.

Abandoning this principle would mean the end of the current automatic right of East German to asylum in the West.

East and West Germans still feel primarily one. Bonn's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, whose meeting with Mr. Honecker outside East Berlin a year ago coincided with the imposition of martial law in Poland, said afterwards: "Mr. Honecker speaks German, not Russian. And he naturally

thinks like a German, albeit a Communist German."

The average East German, however, when he talks politics in the corner bar of an evening, most often talks of West German politics, to such an extent that the expression "our chancellor" is not uncommon when the West German leader is meant. In contrast, the apathy with which affluent West Germans often view the unity issue occasionally appals Bonn politicians, dedicated to Deutschlandpolitik as a matter of principle.

Egon Bahr, who negotiated most of the basic treaty as then minister of state in Bonn, commented in an interview this week: "I am glad the treaty has held up... I have only one regret, which is that during the talks I pressed for seven new border crossing points instead of four, because I thought the four would not be enough to cope with the flow of travel to the east. My disappointment since then has been that to this day the four have been sufficient."



Internal strife tops Peru's premier-designate's problems

LIMA (R) — Peru's current ambassador to Washington, Fernando Schwalb, is expected to take a tough stand in efforts to wipe out the country's leftist guerrillas when he takes over from Manuel Ulloa as prime minister next month, political sources say.

But few changes can be expected in the economic field. Some minor adjustments may depend on who replaces Mr. Ulloa as economy and finance minister in the new cabinet, the sources add. The 57-year-old investment banker had held both posts since democracy was restored in Peru 21 months ago after 12 years of military rule.

Mr. Schwalb, a respected lawyer and an old friend of President Fernando Belaunde, will probably combine the premiership with the foreign ministry portfolio, the sources say. The cabinet resigned last week to enable the president to name new ministers after Mr. Ulloa announced he was leaving the government, ostensibly to campaign for the ruling Popular Action Party before municipal elections next November and presidential elections scheduled in 1985.

But informed political sources said Mr. Ulloa quit after Mr. Belaunde repeatedly turned down his requests to switch him from the economy to the interior ministry, a job which would have enabled him to try to meet Peru's growing guerrilla challenge. This year 100 people have died in political violence which has spread from the southern province of Ayacucho.

Mr. Belaunde has been reluctant to drag the army into the struggle, fearing a repeat of a military coup that top-

pled his first administration in 1968. In October of that year, a group of left-leaning officers seized power after saying guerrillas had made them aware of the need for radical action to deal with poverty and social injustice.

But speaking to reporters in Washington, Mr. Schwalb said he believed in joint police-army action to eliminate subversion, most of which has been blamed on a growing Maoist movement called Sendero Luminoso.

Political sources said Mr. Ulloa had repeatedly made similar proposals, including setting up a joint command to spearhead the struggle. They said Mr. Belaunde had refused to appoint Mr. Ulloa interior minister in case he gained political capital and mounted a challenge on the presidency in 1985.

Mr. Ulloa is reported by friends to have presidential ambitions. He will be 54 when presidential elections are held while Mr. Belaunde will be 71.

Like most other Latin American nations, Peru is in a dire economic and financial situation. Plunging prices for its main exports have sharply reduced the flow of hard currency into the country, creating a financial crisis which threatens Mr. Belaunde's promises to build more roads, jobs, houses and schools. The government will receive \$800 million less than forecast this year because prices for its principal metal exports, copper and silver, have dropped to their lowest levels for 40 years, according to economy ministry officials.

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Nine months after Israeli-appointed mayors take over in Ramallah and Al-Bireh...

Development abandoned in West Bank towns

By Sami al-Aboudi

WEST BANK — During the nine months they have been "in office," the military-appointed mayors of al-Bireh and Ramallah have not introduced any new development project, charge deposed city council members from the twin cities. "They have even frozen some of the projects we had been working on, such as the extension of al-Bireh's sewage system," said Ibrahim Tawil of al-Bireh, the first elected mayor to be summarily dismissed by the Israeli authorities last March.

The sewage system is only one of several basic improvement and development projects initiated by the elected municipalities before their sacking by the Israelis last spring. Some projects were halted completely, others were cut back and partial work is underway on a third type. The appointed mayors were reported to have even sold some of the equipment owned by the municipalities.

When Ibrahim Tawil was forced out of office, municipal workers were halfway through the first stage of constructing the sewage system. Tawil said that this stage included laying sewage pipes in all neighbourhoods in the south side of the city. Completion had been scheduled for July and work was proceeding on time until March. City engineers were drawing up plans for the second stage at the same time and blue-print work for the northern (industrial) area was also completed. The work is now five months behind schedule and the Israeli-appointed military mayor is still working on the first stage.

A cursory look along the Jerusalem-Ramallah road as it approaches the southern city limits of al-Bireh shows municipal workers busy digging up the street, preparing to install sewage pipes. The appearance is that the municipality is active and concerned, as a recent Israel TV feature tried to convince viewers. However, on side streets along

both sides of the main road, things are different. Streets are open culverts and sewage pipes lay on the roadsides, but nobody is working nor has been for months.

The al-Bireh municipality completed the basic structure of a 5000-metre square school in 1981, at a cost of over JD 250,000, using donations collected from the al-Bireh diaspora communities in the U.S. and from Arab countries. The building was designed as a college branch for one of the West Bank universities and local educators say that the building is suitable only for that purpose. But the Israeli military mayor has announced plans to convert the college building into new quarters for the al-Hashimiyeh secondary school. In 1978, the school was operating at full capacity with an enrollment of 450 students.

However, following huge student demonstrations in March 1978 to protest the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon, the Israeli military authorities issued an order banning students from villages from studying in city schools. Village students scattered to neighbouring schools which had secondary classes, and the previously crowded al-Hashimiyeh school enrollment consequently dropped to nearly 200 students.

Students at the active al-Hashimiyeh school in the heart of al-Bireh claim that the Israelis purposely want to exile them to a remote area to lower the visibility, and influence, of student demonstrations on the public. The new school building is far from the urban centre, and has no public transport near it. Al-Bireh educators also charge that it would be a waste of space, design and resources if it were used as a secondary school.

The landmark roundabout known to every resident as simply al-Manara no longer stands in its place on the Ramallah-al-Bireh dividing line. Originally a water fountain monument, the circle was famous for the three, stone-carved lions which guarded the middle of a small pool. Water flowed from the pool through the lions' trunks and sprayed from the mouths of the lions. In 1966, a freak tornado destroyed the statues, and they were replaced by a simple stone column.

In recent years, the elected Ramallah and al-Bireh municipalities were jointly planning to

renovate al-Manara and install the area's first traffic lights in order to organise the six streams of converging traffic. The blueprint, however, stayed in the closet after the Israeli authorities refused to approve the project.

Less than two months ago, the Israeli-appointed mayors gave orders to destroy the major circle and to build small islands instead. Many Ramallah and al-Bireh residents insist that renovation work could have been carried out without destroying the famous landmark, which had been preserved in the plans drawn up by the elected municipalities. The "new" Israeli mayor is using Israeli-made prefabricated cement blocks to replace the old and beautiful hand-cut stone blocks lining the side walks, thus pouring money into Israeli factories, while denying it to local Palestinian stone-cutters.

Among other major projects, frozen by the Israeli authorities during the term of the elected municipalities, was al-Bireh's new town hall. Tawil explained that because of budget approval delays by the military governorate, sometimes lasting months, the municipality feels compelled, says Mayor Tawil, to start needed projects without the Israeli authorities approval.

In the case of the municipal building, the city council had prepared all the necessary blueprint work, and had the budget in hand for the project. Eight months after the municipality submitted its plans and heard no response, the council took a decision to begin construction work. The Israeli authorities later ordered the project suspended after the first floor had been laid.

Those renting municipal-owned offices or shops complain that there is no maintenance work being carried out in their buildings, other al-Bireh residents complain that their requests for construction permits are routed to the West Bank zoning department, rather than being approved locally by the municipality, which is the body legally responsible.

Tawil summed up the situation: "The Israeli authorities claimed, when they dismissed the legitimate mayor, that we were not doing our job. But the fact is that the projects we initiated, they are unable to finish."

— Al Fajr (dawn) — Palestinian weekly



Main highway—single line traffic only

Randa Habib's CORNER

If I was Santa Claus...

If I was Santa Claus I would be a very generous one. As a start I would conduct a market research campaign to find out all your needs. You could all express freely what you want for Christmas.

I would repair the roofs of all those houses where water is leaking in, and would install central heating so that no child will be cold at Christmas.

I would send each of you a stuffed turkey and a Christmas cake.

I would offer my help to the Municipality, and volunteer to fill all the holes in the roads and complete all the long-pending repair works.

I would number all the apartments in Amman so as not to lose my way when distributing the presents.

I would decide that all the international telephone calls made to date by people still dazzled by having a direct international line would be free, because they have been deprived for so long.

I would make at least two public parks for the sole pleasure of those children who do not have gardens, and would install all the mechanical and electronic games they have ever dreamed of.

I would plant trees everywhere, and clean the airport and the whole city.

I would distribute presents to all the children, particularly to those in the streets, to whom I would also offer coats to keep them warm.

I would decide to cut prices by 50 per cent.

I would....

But what's the use of dreaming? I am not Santa Claus. Have a Merry Christmas!

France votes equality for women

By Mary Ellen Bortin Reuter

PARIS — The French parliament has overwhelmingly approved a new bill aimed at reducing sexual discrimination against working women.

Women, currently 40 per cent of the French workforce, still earn only two-thirds of a man's salary for equal work. France's outspoken Minister for Women's Rights, Yvette Roudy, told the National Assembly during debate on the bill last week.

The "second sex" also faces greater obstacles in moving up the professional ladder, she said, with the elite positions reserved for men. In the National Assembly, for example, only 25 of the 491 deputies are women.

While equal pay for equal work became law on paper in France in 1972, application of the law was "inefficient" due to loopholes, a socialist party spokesman said.

Under the new legislation, employers who do not respect sexual equality measures will face prison terms of two months to two years and/or a fine of 20,000 to 200,000 francs (\$300 to 3,000).

The new bill bars any mention of sexual category or family status in job advertisements, except in jobs where the sex of the employee is "the determining factor". The Council of State, the state body which advises on legislation, is to draw up a list of such positions, which will be revised periodically.

The bill also makes any preferential treatment on the basis of an employee's sex illegal, except in the case of maternity benefits, which in France include four months' paid maternity leave.

Temporary measures favouring women in order to help them catch up with men professionally are authorised, however, and experience may henceforth be considered the equivalent of a diploma in order to bridge educational gaps between the sexes.

The bill also abolishes a clause in the 1972 legislation under which employers could justify discriminatory hiring or firing practices by citing "legitimate motives."

In future it will be up to the employer, and not the employee, to prove there is no discrimination.

A Women's Rights Ministry spokesman said the new legislation "boosts France from last place to first, alongside Sweden, within the European Community."

France had been the only community member not to conform to a 1976 order stipulating that men and women were to be treated equally at work.

The bill was easily adopted by parliament last Monday, with 327 votes in favour and none opposed. However, the entire Conservative opposition abstained. The measure must go before the Senate prior to final review by the Assembly.

Announcing the decision to abstain, two deputies of the Union for French Democracy of former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said France would be better off "helping women exercise their vocation as wives and mothers."

The Conservatives, paradoxically joined by the Communists, also pushed for greater "positive discrimination" in favour of women.

But the Socialists successfully contested this on the grounds that it would diminish the effects of

previous legislation such as "parental leave". This measure authorises either the mother or father to take up to two years unpaid leave after the birth of a child with the guarantee of returning to his or her job.

Since the adoption of the sex equality bill this week, feminists have voiced concern that it did not go far enough.

Pointing to a "recommendation" that employers draw up "equality plans" for their enterprises, a spokeswoman for a feminist group said the only way to bring women up to par with men was to make such plans mandatory.

The Communist-led CGT trade union federation also criticised the legislation for its silence on "female ghettos" such as the food and textile industries, where women are the vast majority of the employees and are paid the minimum wage.

But a spokesman for the Women's Rights Ministry said the law could not cover every aspect of wage inequality.

"This law provides the means," he said, "hopefully employees will use it."

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09:30 News in Arabic

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07:00 News in French
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28:00 Newsdesk 28:30 Classical Record Review 28:45 Financial News 28:55 Reflections 29:00 World News 24 Hours News Summary 29:30 People's

29:00 Newsdesk 29:30 Classical Record Review 29:45 Financial News 29:55 Reflections 30:00 World News 24 Hours News Summary 30:30 People's

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

* Paintings from the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

VIDEO

* For children: Adventures: Scholastic, Espion de L'Empereur, (14:00 p.m.), Aventures: La Croisière des Sables (5:00 p.m.) and Le Médicement Malgre Lui (at 6:00 p.m.).

MASS

* Mass at 10:00 p.m. Friday, followed by recollections at St. John the Baptist de la Salle Church in Jabal Hussein.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubieh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 43453.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at the Roman Baptist School in Stamein, 663249.

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre Tel. 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goshu Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 42203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793

PRAYER TIMES

06:06 Fajr
06:35 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:35 Dhuhur
14:18 'Asr
16:35 Maghreb
18:03 Isha

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mutatah, Jabal Lubieh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

Loans Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.

Loans Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Club, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alfa Information department at Amman Airport Tel. 92,205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (EA)
08:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:55 Aqaba (RJ)
09:00 Baghdad (RJ)
09:15 Doha (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:40 Doha (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:50 Doha (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Doha (RJ)
10:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:50 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:35 Kuwait (KAC)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Larnaka (RJ)
16:45 Athens (RJ)
16:55 Doha (RJ)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
18:05 Amsterdam, Beirut (KLM)
18:20 Athens (GF)
18:25 Helsinki, Berlin, Athens (AI)
19:00 Rome (RJ)
19:30 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Tripoli (LH)
20:40 Beirut (MEA)
22:30 Baghdad (RJ)
00:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:45 Baghdad (RJ)
01:10 Baghdad (BA)

DEPARTURES

04:30 Istanbul, Belgrade (JAT)
04:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:15 Damascus (RJ)
06:15 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
07:45 Cairo (EA)
08:45 Beirut (MEA)
10:30 Rome (RJ)
10:45 Athens (GF)
10:50 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:15 Tripoli, Madrid (RJ)
11:30 Athens (GF)
11:30 Geneva, Zurich (SR)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Larnaka (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy, with chances of scattered showers. Winds will be northerly to westerly. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C
Amman 31/1
Aqaba 32/20
Dahab 31/20
Jordan Valley 30/18

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 9, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 90 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

Commentary 01:15 From the Weeklies
01:30 The Midweek Cuckoo

Today 19:00 World News, 19:09 Sarah and Company 19:40 Book Choice 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:09 News about Britain 20:15 Radio

Newsweek 20:30 Quote Unquote 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead/About Britain 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours News

Summary 22:30 Pageant of the Past 23:00 Network U.K. 23:15 Music Now 23:45 New Thought of God 24:00 World News 00:07 The World Today

00:25 The Week in Wales 00:30 Financial News, Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:09

01:30 London (BA)
14:40 London (BA)
15:30 Kuwait (KAC)
15:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:35 Jeddah, Medina (SV)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 195, 75111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Police headquarters 23400-2
Police rescue 192, 2111, 3777
Police headquarters 30141
Traffic police 56300-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 71125-8

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 81381-32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Akheh Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Mahas, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmeisani 66471-4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131-5
University Hospital 445845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Muhsen Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664194
Italian, Al-Muhsen 77101-1
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 71111
Army, Marka 91011

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN
Dr. Anwar Agha 2409, 36813

SPORTS

India, Pakistan enter second test today

KARACHI, Pakistan (A.P.) — The Indian and Pakistani cricket teams on Thursday will enter the second test of the six-test series with determination of getting a favourable result during the next five days.

The Pakistani skipper Imran Khan has predicted that there would be a result in the match. He has based his opinion on the nature of the wicket at Karachi and described it as bouncy with chances of supporting spinners in the later stages of the match.

The Indian team manager, Fateh Singh Gaekwad, said his team would take the field with a will to get a favourable decision for his side.

Both the teams have withheld announcing the final line up for the match till Thursday morning. But the Pakistan side has named its fourteen for the match who are not different from the first test list.

The officials of both the teams have read the Karachi wicket as "bouncy" to help the speed merchants in the early stages of the match and later supporting the spinners. It appears that in the second test, the winning of the toss will be crucial for either side.

The last encounter between India and Pakistan at Karachi in 1978-1979 was a thriller won by Pakistan during the captaincy of Mushtaq Mohammad.

Navratilova named world's top

NEW YORK (R) — Martina Navratilova, who beat Chris Evert Lloyd in the final of the 1982 Women's Tennis Circuit Championship two days ago, was Wednesday named world's top ranking women's player by a U.S. tennis magazine.

Czechoslovak-born Navratilova, number one in the "Tennis Magazine" rankings in 1979, displaced fellow American Lloyd who held the top ranking for the last two years.

Lloyd is now second, followed by Andrea Jaeger. Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia, Tracy Austin, Bettina Bunge, Pam Shriver, Barbara Potter, Sylvia Hanika of West Germany and Wendy Turnbull of Australia.

Soviet Dasayev: Best undisputed goalie

MOSCOW (R) — Zico or Maradona, Rossi or Rummenigge... each has his backers for the title of the world's greatest soccer player.

But there are few such arguments about the goalkeeping spot, for there can be no better exponent of the art than Soviet giant Renat Dasayev.

Dasayev was one of the outstanding personalities of the World Cup in Spain this summer and is well on his way to taking his place in football's Hall of Fame. Shoulder-to-shoulder with legendary compatriot Lev Yashin.

The 25-year-old Spartak Moscow star became the hero of the Soviet Union with one astonishing save during the vital first round match against Scotland in Malaga. Scottish striker Joe Jordan met

a cross from the right flush on his forehead and flashed a bullet headed goalwards. The ball looked certain to sneak in at the post when Dasayev propelled himself across the goal like a torpedo to turn it away for a corner. Few in the stadium that night could believe their eyes.

But Dasayev will look back on the Soviet season which has just ended with mixed feelings.

Despite his expertise, the Soviet Union failed to get past the second round in the World Cup while Spartak could only finish third in the League and went out of the UEFA Cup at the hands of Valencia of Spain.

As a child, Dasayev did not particularly want to be a goalkeeper.

He was small for his age and played in most outfield positions before finding himself between the posts.

One of the most influential figures in his career has undoubtedly been Yashin who used to advise him at the start of every game before reported ill-health took its toll.

And Dasayev received the greatest compliment of his career when, at the end of the World Cup, Pele paid tribute by describing him as "a worthy successor to the great Lev Yashin".

And like Yashin, Dasayev says his dream is to continue to the age of 40—good news for the Soviet Union but bad news for strikers. Club manager and for net

national team boss Konstantin Beskov has also been important in Dasayev's development.

Dasayev was the first player Beskov signed when he took over at Spartak and the goalkeeper admits his boss has "played the most important role".

But the two will no longer be together on international duty. Beskov was strongly criticised in the Soviet press after the World Cup "failure" and shortly after was replaced by Valery Lobanovsky.

But Dasayev remains a firm fan of his club manager. "Beskov has very distinct ideas about how football ought to be played. He knows exactly what he wants from every player and from the team as a

whole," said the goalkeeper. Apart from his rare talent, Dasayev has earned a host of admirers for his sportsmanship. He seldom makes mistakes but when he is at fault he never seeks to pass on the blame to his defenders.

When asked about other players whose conduct is not so exemplary, Dasayev said: "It's the players and football which suffer. We should play football and not try to score points."

Dasayev, with more than 20 caps, has everything to look forward to and will certainly be in Lobanovsky's plans for the 1984 European Championship and 1986 World Cup, a prospect which will cause Jordan and company a lot of sleepless nights.



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- 4 Mikasa MVC 90 F vibrating plate compactors
- 1 Smitweld 600 AMP welding transformer
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07:00	07:00 (dep)	07:10 (arr)	07:15 (arr)	07:20 (arr)	07:25 (arr)	07:30 (arr)
09:00	09:00 (dep)	09:10 (arr)	09:15 (arr)	09:20 (arr)	09:25 (arr)	09:30 (arr)
11:30	11:30 (dep)	11:40 (arr)	11:45 (arr)	11:50 (arr)	11:55 (arr)	12:00 (arr)
14:45	14:45 (dep)	14:55 (arr)	15:00 (arr)	15:05 (arr)	15:10 (arr)	15:15 (arr)

* following day

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Pate de Caneton en gelee
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Saumon fume a la facon du Chef
Dindonneau farci aux Marrons
Chou-fleur au gratin
Endives braisees
Pommes Croquettes
Bûche de Noel
ou
Christmas Pudding
Cafe Francais
Petits Fours
JD 12,000

Exclusive stores report good Xmas season

LONDON (R) — With the world still in the cold grip of recession, shops in most countries are reporting less than sparkling sales this Christmas as customers become more price-conscious.

Apart from in Britain, where cheaper and more available credit has sent shoppers on a buying spree, most storekeepers around the world will be happy to see any increase in sales over last year's levels, according to a Reuters survey.

The picture is particularly gloomy in West Germany, where rising unemployment and deepening recession have begun to be reflected in the level of sales.

In the United States, where more people are out of work than at any time since the World War II, sales have also been very sluggish.

But the survey also shows that the rich are still prepared to spend their money and some of the more select stores in London, Paris and New York are doing good business.

A spokesman for Harrods of London said it is "one of the best Christmases we have had for years." Shoppers in Britain's most exclusive store were snapping up champagne-flavoured toothpaste and gold-plated toothbrushes.

Tiffany's of New York said sales at the famous jewellery store were up substantially, and the economic crisis does not appear to have affected business at the Fauchon, the exclusive Parisian food store.

A spokeswoman for the shop said that first estimates showed that turnover increased by 17 per cent in November and December compared with last year.

There is also good news for children, both young and old, as sales of video games worldwide are buoyant against the general trend of slow business.

In West Germany, shops have stayed open longer to try to attract more customers in the pre-Christmas period, but sales have remained slow and bad weather

has added to the problems.

"Nowadays one has to be content if one manages to match last year's turnover," which after inflation is taken into account means a decline in real terms, a spokesman for Karstadt, one of West Germany's biggest department store chains, told Reuters.

In the United States, retailers are hoping that the final week before Christmas will help salvage what has been a generally poor holiday sales period.

A spokesman for J.C. Penney Company, one of the country's largest department store chains, said sales were up about three per cent overall but after inflation would show no gain. A Sears Roebuck spokesman said that Chain's sales "are going to be pretty much flat if you count inflation."

Retailers report that the largest selling items in the pre-Christmas period are durable goods, personal computers and video games.

But in Britain, the John Lewis partnership, a big department store chain, reported sales up 26 per cent in the second week of December over the same period last year.

And a spokesman for Selfridges, in London's bustling Oxford Street, said a major factor in the boom had been the recent cut in mortgage interest rates.

After a late start, stores in Paris reported they were being besieged by last minute customers, indicating that business was at least holding its own compared with last year.

All stores pointed to an unprecedented rush for pocket-sized electronic games.

Swiss Christmas shoppers are more price-conscious this year with unemployment at a four-year high, but overall spending is likely to match or top last year's, department store managers say.

In Latin America, Christmas sales are down from last year, as wages have failed to keep pace with inflation.

OECD foresees no end to global recession

PARIS (R) — The Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) foresees no end to the global recession and forecast unemployment in its 24 member countries will rise to a record of nearly 35 million.

In its bleakest forecast for years, the OECD said the recession had been unexpectedly severe and prolonged and the recovery in economic growth has been repeatedly postponed.

"There is little evidence to suggest that this mood of pessimism will dissipate soon. A lengthy period of subdued spending, particularly in respect of fixed investment, now seems likely in nearly all countries," it said in an economic outlook.

The OECD, which groups the 24 major non-communist economies, said the United States may begin a recovery early next year but it admitted that there is scant evidence of this so far.

The only bright spot in the report said inflation continues to fall more rapidly than expected and is now at its lowest for almost 10

years.

But it said that the price paid for overcoming inflation could have been too high in terms of prolonged recession and record unemployment.

It said the effect of generally restrictive policies may have been greater than intended by governments which underestimated the international repercussions of their simultaneous tight money policies.

Reducing inflation has put mounting strain on the international financial system.

The OECD said it only recently became clear how much damage high interest rates have caused to large debtor countries but added that the most disturbing longer-term feature of the outlook is the revival of protectionism in a variety of forms.

The report said the rise in unemployment over the last three years has been severe and in Europe it has seemed inexorable. It forecast that by mid-1984 almost 35 million people, or 9.5 per cent of the OECD labour force, would

be without a job.

This new post World War II record compares with only 24.7 million unemployed in 1981, 30.25 million at the end of this year and a predicted 33.75 million by end-1983.

In a sharp downward revision of earlier growth forecasts the OECD said real Gross National Product (GNP) in its area will fall 0.5 per cent this year after a 1.2 per cent rise in 1981.

Next year growth should rise 1.5 per cent before increasing at an annual rate of 2.75 per cent in the first half of 1984.

Unemployment and growth prospects are worst in Europe and the OECD warned: "The longer slow growth continues in Europe the greater the risk that it will become self-perpetuating."

GNP growth in Europe will rise to only 1.5 or two per cent at best by mid-1984 after falling one per cent in the second half of 1982 while European unemployment may rise by nearly one million every six months to 14.5 million by mid-1984 and prospects may not

improve after then.

Continuing low sales by industry will make it extremely difficult to revitalise ailing companies and encourage them to invest enough money to cut back unemployment significantly.

In these circumstances the OECD said considerable uncertainty remains on how to interpret present policies and what policies governments should follow in the future.

Inflation in the 24 OECD countries last October dropped to its lowest level since early 1973 at an average 7.2 per cent, a sharp drop from the 13 per cent high recorded in 1980 after the second oil price shock.

The report forecast further improvements, with the average inflation rate dropping to 6.75 per cent next year and to 6.5 per cent in the first six months of 1984.

But it said the forecasts could be affected by key commodity prices, which are certain to rise if there is a sustained recovery, and it noted that the medium-term outlook for oil prices is uncertain.

Growth in industrial production is likely to remain weak and lower inflation and nominal interest rates may not be enough to lead to a sustainable recovery in output and employment.

The OECD's balance of payments deficit on current account is predicted to widen from \$58.5 billion this year to \$54 billion in 1983, but then improve slightly to an annual rate of \$52 billion in the first half of 1984.

The OECD said the current account deficits are larger than those forecast in its previous economic outlook last July mainly because the continuing recession has forced non-OECD countries to cut their imports.

The deficits vary sharply between nations but the main item is a sudden swing in the U.S. current account position from a \$4.5 billion surplus last year to a forecast deficit at an annual rate of \$45.5 billion in the first 1984 half.

Prices of U.S. products have become less competitive, demand in the domestic U.S. market has improved strongly and growth in U.S. export markets has been low, the OECD said.

Softening oil prices and falling oil export volumes had wiped out the huge current account surplus of the 13 countries of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) by the first half of this year.

The OECD said OPEC's 1981 surplus of \$65 billion would be eliminated this year but could recover to a \$15 billion surplus in 1983 as oil export volumes and revenues improve.

It added that the large current account deficit of developing countries outside OPEC should fall steadily to \$65 billion this year and 50 billion next year from the \$75 billion shortfall in 1981, mainly due to lower imports.

NEW IN BRIEF

Senate blocks grain plan

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's plan to give farmers grain from government surplus stocks in exchange for cuts in production in 1983 has been blocked in the Senate. The Reagan plan will now be discussed by the new 98th U.S. Congress taking office next month. The plan seeks to reduce the huge grain and dairy surpluses in the United States.

Unlensed cable to link U.S. cities

DOHA (OPECNA) — Three Gulf states, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, are to be linked by a sub-marine communications cable. According to communications ministry officials here, the \$47 million project will provide 3,200 telephone circuits. It should be completed within 20 months.

Kuwait takes 15% stake in Pro net

LONDON (OPECNA) — The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), the London-based finance ministry agency, is acquiring a 15 per cent stake in Pro net, the Far East oil rig and construction group. The Kuwaitis will buy more than 40 million new Pro net common shares at around \$1.25 each, putting a value of about \$335 million on the Pro net group.

B.L. built economic car

GAYDON, England (R) — Britain's state-run B.L. car company said Wednesday it has built a lightweight five-seat car which will do 4.5 litres per 100 kilometres in typical driving conditions. The vehicle has a top speed of 185 kilometres per hour, the company said.

W. Germany, Kuwait discuss ties

KUWAIT (R) — West German Economics Minister Count Otto von Bismarck discussed new areas of economic cooperation with the Kuwaiti Finance Minister Abdel Latif Al Humad Wednesday, the Kuwait News Agency said.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

LONDON (R) — Government bonds continued firm and equities recovered slightly Wednesday with the F.T. index at 1500 showing a rise of 5.3 at 594.0.

Prices were marked higher initially after the late surge in prices on Wall Street but only selected stocks improved further in very slow trading, dealers said. Beecham ended 7p higher at 353 and Rand. det. firm since the annual results on Monday, rose another 6p to 327. Otherwise, gains of around 2p were the norm.

South African gold mines ended below the highs as bullion prices bucked from the \$450 level seen in New York Tuesday night. North American shares were mostly higher.

Government bonds were firm, reflecting easier Fed funds in New York Tuesday night and the resultant gains in U.S. bonds both Tuesday and again when the market reopened Wednesday afternoon, dealers said. Long dated bonds were up around a point.

Oil rallied along with the rest of the equity market but were generally below the highs by the close. B.P., Shell, Tricentrol and Ultra nar were between 4p and 7p higher while Britoil was up a penny at 66.

Anderson Strathclyde drifted a penny to 176, awaiting further developments in the bid situation.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.6102 12	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2367 71	Canadian dollars
	2.4010 30	West German marks
	2.6550 70	Dutch guilders
	2.0170 02 10	Swiss francs
	46.90 47 00	Belgian francs
	6.7900 80 00	French francs
	1383.00 1386.00	Italian lire
	241.00 20	Japanese yen
	7.3370 34 00	Swedish crowns
	7.0400 30	Norwegian crowns
	8.4750 48 00	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	448.00 449.00	U.S. dollars

Switzerland publishes draft of banking law

BERNE (R) — A new draft law which would erode Swiss banking secrecy was published by the government Wednesday.

It would revise the Swiss banking law so that an infringement of secrecy which resulted from a negligence rather than premeditated intent would no longer be a crime.

An incentive to breach confidentiality would be punishable only if it is successful. Under the existing law written in 1934, even a vain attempt at incitement is a crime.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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There may be something wrong with the satellite — Notre Dame just trampled Mr. Rogers!

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles, a letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

FLAYE

POZAT

GLEEBA

SORIAL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SQUAW BELLE JUMBLE EMBRYO
Answer: They come up boiling — BUBBLES

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 1982

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be prepared to adopt new policies that can operate to your advantage. A day to show your magnetism and gain your true aims. New beginnings can work to your advantage.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Engage in worthwhile activities during spare time but don't spend money foolishly. New ideas can be profitable.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be alert to new opportunities that could arise at this time. Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Discuss future plans with associates. Obtain the information you need from the right sources. Express happiness.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make those changes that will bring you financial benefits in the days ahead. Follow the advice of an expert.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Come to a better accord with associates. Be sure to keep promise made to a business person. Think constructively.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be sure to meet the expectations of associates and avoid possible trouble. Make plans to have more abundance in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make sure your home and environment are spruced up for the holidays ahead. Don't postpone regular routines.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Engage in civic work now and add to present prestige. Show more devotion to family. Show others you have wisdom.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Sidestep a higher-up who may be in an irate mood and is seeking a scapegoat. Be logical.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study new outlets through which you can make the future much brighter for yourself. Follow your hunches now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have to change your attitude with others if you are to get the right results at this time. Use care in travel.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be more cooperative with co-workers and gain excellent results. Make sure regular routines are not neglected.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one of those clever young persons who will be interested in various philosophies. Be sure to provide with as fine an education as you can afford so that the most can be made of the fine talents in this chart.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 24, 1982

Christmas Eve — MERRY CHRISTMAS

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening when you will have many opportunities to prove that you follow the doctrines of the Prince of Peace or whatever your school of thought and philosophy of life happens to be.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle important routines early in the day for best results. Be sure to take the treatments you need to improve your health.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle an outside affair of importance instead of wasting time on a private matter and advance in your line of endeavor.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Avoid friends during the daytime and go after your practical affairs wisely. Know better what your goals are.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Don't give others an opportunity for criticism.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Study your true financial status and know how to invest wisely in the future. Join in activities that are to your liking.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Use your best judgment during the day, since your hunches could be wrong. Express happiness with others tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A friend could have some ideas that are radical, so listen but do not commit yourself. Show generosity of spirit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Complete your work early and be sure to wish co-workers a happy holiday. Get in to the spirit of things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Accept invitations that come up unexpectedly since they could be just right for you. Be happy, contented.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to please family members in every way today and make sure you do so quietly and in the right spirit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Take time for any last-minute shopping you have to do. Analyze your life and plan how to improve it while having a good time.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take care you are not too extravagant today. Discuss with close ties how to become more successful in the future.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she should be given little duties to perform early in life and taught to complete them in order to form the good work habit. Direct education along lines of research for best results. Don't neglect spiritual training.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

WORLD

Sino-Soviet talks will probably begin after Chinese New Year

PEKING (R) — The next round of talks between China and the Soviet Union on improving their relations will not take place until after the Chinese New Year in mid-February, a senior Chinese official said Wednesday night.

This would mean that the Sino-Soviet consultations, due to be held in Moscow, would not resume until after a planned visit to Peking by American Secretary of State George Shultz.

The official, who declined to be identified, told reporters there would not be sufficient time between Jan. 1 and China's lunar New Year holiday starting on Feb. 13 to hold the next round.

Informal sources said Mr. Shultz's visit, his first trip to China since he took over from Gen. Alexander Haig in July, would take place from Feb. 2 to 6.

Chinese officials have said that the timing of the Sino-Soviet discussions and Mr. Shultz's visit are entirely unconnected.

Former Foreign Minister Huang Hua and an Inner Mongolian vice-chairman of China's National People's Congress, Ulanhu, attended a reception at the Soviet embassy Wednesday night to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Union.

Western diplomats said although their status was fairly high in

protocol terms, the presence of Mr. Huang and Mr. Ulanhu was not overly significant politically.

Mr. Huang, whose formal title now is state councillor, was replaced as foreign minister last month, apparently for health reasons, shortly after returning from the Soviet Union where he had attended the funeral of Leonid Brezhnev.

He said on his return that he was optimistic that future Sino-Soviet talks would bring improved relations, but Chinese leaders have said the Kremlin must take concrete action towards removing three major obstacles before relations can improve.

These are the presence of over one million troops along the Sino-Soviet and Sino-Mongolian borders, the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and its support for Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea.

China denies that it is playing off one superpower against the other.

The official press has denounced as untrue theories that it is now playing a "Soviet card" against Washington while before it played an "American card" against Moscow, and has said Peking will never permit anyone to play a "China card" either.

Arson may have caused Kenyan fuel depot fire

NAIROBI (R) — A huge fire broke out at Kenya's main petroleum depot in Nairobi early Wednesday in the midst of a serious fuel shortage, and a government spokesman said sabotage could not be ruled out.

Officials at the depot, which stores fuel received by pipeline from a refinery at Mombasa, on Kenya's Indian Ocean coast, said the fire engulfed two tanks containing six million litres of petrol.

Firemen fought through the night to stop the blaze spreading to 10 adjacent tanks. By mid-afternoon the fire had died down considerably but still sent huge pillars of smoke over the capital.

The official Kenya news agency said there was no information on any loss of life.

John Keen, an assistant minister in the office of President Daniel arap Moi, told Reuters that "sabotage cannot be ruled out" but declined to speculate as to what motive saboteurs might have.

For the past two weeks Kenya

has suffered a serious fuel shortage which the government has blamed on poor distribution. The crisis has led to long queues at filling stations for scarce diesel, cooking gas and kerosene.

Mr. Keen said that the fire meant that the government-run pipeline, which pumps all fuel products along the 480-kilometres from the refinery to the depot, would be temporarily closed.

"It is not functioning. As from this evening we will be bringing fuel up from Mombasa by tanker lorries. There should be no problem as we have a lot of petrol there," he said.

Oil industry sources said the tanks contained three days petrol supply for Kenya and neighbours which depend upon Kenya for all fuel imports — Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

The Kenya news agency estimated the damage caused by the blaze at 100 million shillings (\$10 million).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sofia puts 2 Italians on trial

VIENNA (R) — Two Italians arrested in August for photographing military sites in Bulgaria went on trial in Sofia Wednesday, the official Bulgarian news agency BTA reported. An earlier report by the agency said Paolo Faracetti, 34, and Gabriela Trevisin, 26, were caught in the act. Films with pictures of military installations were found on them. BTA said. The trial was adjourned after the court granted the defendants' request for witnesses in Italy to be examined, the agency said. Italian lawyer Rudolfo Lena and Italian diplomat Alessandro Pietro-Marci were admitted to Wednesday's hearing, as well as Italian journalists accredited in Sofia.

76 Argentine desperados identified

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine newspapers have published a list identifying 76 bodies found buried in unmarked graves in Buenos Aires' main Chacarita cemetery. The list, made available to the press by investigating judge Raul Hector Pierini, was the first published in a series of investigations in 13 cemeteries in several Argentine cities. The judge said he was making the list available for the information of relatives of people hitherto considered missing.

British study reveals child labour

LONDON (R) — London has a huge hidden workforce of children whose employers are flouting child labour laws, a pressure group study reported Wednesday. A sample of 1,000 working youngsters found that eight out of 10 were employed for illegal hours, in prohibited jobs or under the legal minimum age of 13, the survey said. Up to one-third of schoolchildren in the capital aged 11 to 15 have part-time jobs, the group said. The study was carried out by the Low Pay Research Unit, an independent body which campaigns to improve conditions in some of the darker corners of Britain's economy. A child's working hours and school time together often add to more hours than the work week of the average manual workers, the unit said. Urging the government to enforce existing laws, the unit said that employers were using the children as cheap labour, reducing the number of jobs available for full-time workers.

Crack team to guard French president

PARIS (R) — A crack new security force of 40 to 50 paramilitary gendarmes in charge of President Francois Mitterrand's security will become operative early next year, officials said Tuesday. Though French police unions charged that replacing civilians with paramilitaries violated the republican nature of French institutions, a presidential spokeswoman stressed that the new squad would strengthen the existing civilian security team, not replace it. The French press has said that Mr. Mitterrand's relaxed style had heightened presidential security problems since he took office last year.

Goren Bridge does not appear in today's Jordan Times. We will resume publication from Saturday.

Inquest verdict arouses storm in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A storm of protest gathered strength in South Africa Wednesday over an inquest decision that nobody could be held responsible for the death of union organizer Neil Aggett, found hanged in his cell earlier this year.

The Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU) said it was shocked at the verdict on Dr. Aggett, a 28-year-old organizer for the mainly black African Food and Canning Workers' Union who became the first white to die in security police detention.

A pressure group of relatives of

those held under South Africa's tough anti-terrorism laws, the Detainees' Parents Support Committee (DPSC), expressed astonishment at Tuesday's verdict which they said left them "stunned by its one-sidedness."

"We fear for the lives of detainees," the DPSC said.

The opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP) called for a commission of judges to investigate deaths in detention. But a PSP spokesman said the government was unlikely to comply with the demand because "it has purposefully, deliberately and

methodically removed from the judges the power to inquire into detentions."

At the end of the Marathon inquest, magistrate Petrus Kotze ruled that nobody, including the policemen who guarded Dr. Aggett, could be held responsible for his suicide last Feb. 5.

The opposition newspaper The Rand Daily Mail said most people would greet the total exoneration of the security police with disbelief.

Referring to black consciousness leader Steve Biko, whose death in detention five

years ago aroused world attention, The Mail asked:

"What happened after Biko? Much hand-wringing among ardent supporters of our security legislation and many assurances from cabinet ministers and police officers."

"Yet deaths continue. And after Aggett?"

Lawyers for Dr. Aggett's family have argued throughout the inquest, that methods used by the security police during his interrogation drove him to hang himself.

Tanaka denies taking \$2m bribe from Lockheed

TOKYO (R) — Former Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was questioned in court Wednesday for only the second time since his trial in connection with the Lockheed bribery scandal began in Jan. 1977.

Mr. Tanaka, 64, tearfully pleaded not guilty to bribery charges when the trial of 16 defendants started and he repeated the denial Wednesday under questioning

from the presiding judge, a court official said.

"As a politician I never, under any pretext, received any money from a foreign firm," said Mr. Tanaka, who wields vast influence on the government of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

He is charged with taking a \$2 million yen (\$2 million) bribe from the U.S. Lockheed Aircraft

Corporation through its then Japanese agent, Marubeni Trading House, while he was prime minister.

"Never," Mr. Tanaka replied Wednesday when the judge asked him if the then president of Marubeni, Hiro Hiysama, asked him at his home on Aug. 23, 1973, to help to promote sales of Lockheed aircraft to All Nippon Airways in return for the money.

"If I may add it is out of the question that an incumbent parliamentarian should be offered payment if sales turned out successful," said Mr. Tanaka, who has refused to undergo questioning by the prosecution.

"If Mr. Hiysama had ever made such remarks, I would have ordered him to get out of the room immediately."

Copts hope to see Shenouda released before Christmas

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Copts are hoping that their patriarch will be freed from banishment in time to celebrate the Coptic Christmas on Jan. 7, according to church officials.

The officials told Reuters negotiations were underway to allow Pope Shenouda III to leave the desert monastery, to which the late President Anwar Sadat banished him 16 months ago, in time to attend mass in the Coptic cathedral.

The Coptic Pope was stripped of his temporal powers in Sept. 1981 by Mr. Sadat who accused him of stirring sectarian strife between his followers and the Muslim majority, a charge rejected by Egypt's estimated six million Copts.

Also in September Mr. Sadat, assassinated a month later by Muslim fanatics, cracked down on his political and religious critics, arresting 1,600 people including bishops, priests and Coptic laymen.

Warning members of the community against pinning too much hope on the Pope's return, a church spokesman said Interior Minister Hassan Abu Basha had visited the Pope in his monastery last month.

The spokesman said the Pope asked Gen. Abu Basha why he was still banished when President Hosni Mubarak had released hundreds of Muslim Fundamentalists and most of the Copts arrested last year.

Pope Shenouda has also taken his case to court, claiming that his treatment was unconstitutional. A decision is to be announced on Jan. 4, three days before the Coptic Christmas.

Last month Pope Shenouda received Australia's Catholic Cardinal Franz Koenig in his monastery in what was described by an opposition newspaper as a government attempt to normalize relations with the church.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SCINTILLATING
By John H. Hales

Edited by Herb Ettenson

- ACROSS
- 1 Oregon, for one
 - 2 Young lady
 - 3 For all
 - 4 Adhesive
 - 5 Think nothing —
 - 6 Awe
 - 7 Amurville plant
 - 8 Graham and
 - 9 Blamark
 - 10 Tabled
 - 11 Action of a
 - 12 Visionary
 - 13 Sports
 - 14 headliner
 - 15 Range of
 - 16 Western
 - 17 Houston group
 - 18 Stidded
 - 19 Gracie, Fred,
 - 20 or Stone
 - 21 Branded
 - 22 Rains
 - 23 Noted cellist
 - 24 Tobacco pipe
 - 25 Matador's
 - 26 Saint
 - 27 Navy man
 - 28 In appropri-
 - 29 side location
 - 30 Brewery item
 - 31 Paint layer
 - 32 New York
 - 33 Governor
 - 34 Be abusive
 - 35 Denials of
 - 36 Pronoun
 - 37 Lowest cult
 - 38 Apply oil
 - 39 Gentleman
 - 40 of Granada
 - 41 arm or belt,
 - 42 as examples
 - 43 Clan symbol
 - 44 Public clerk
 - 45 Born housewife
 - 46 Quadrapeds
 - 47 Obscene art,
 - 48 for short
 - 49 Bookish fellow
 - 50 Position
 - 51 Empty
 - 52 Searched for
 - 53 provender
 - 54 Italian alman
 - 55 Ballo
 - 56 Greek fashio
 - 57 Faint
 - 58 Show sign
 - 59 South Pacific
 - 60 beverage
 - 61 Large number
 - 62 Shaggy Hank
 - 63 Party for men
 - 64 Barbic
 - 65 Sake of a case
 - 66 Sufferer
 - 67 "— worse than
 - 68 Bubbles or
 - 69 Barbic
 - 70 School peddle
 - 71 of you
 - 72 "River"
 - 73 Mild cigars
 - 74 Chaucer
 - 75 Expect
 - 76 Residue of
 - 77 mental
 - 78 Keen of mind
 - 79 Movie star
 - 80 Letter from
 - 81 Greece
 - 82 Plant of the
 - 83 family
 - 84 Disposed to
 - 85 Tensile of
 - 86 song
 - 87 Carphomed
 - 88 antelope
 - 89 Discrimination
 - 90 A Gardner
 - 91 Author Wister
 - 92 Clans
 - 93 Lyan of films
 - 94 Thin

- DOWN
- 1 Assignment
 - 2 Season act
 - 3 "— For All
 - 4 Seasonal
 - 5 In compliance
 - 6 with statutes
 - 7 Lotted
 - 8 Inter —
 - 9 Hair
 - 10 Private
 - 11 Entrance
 - 12 "— to come
 - 13 "— o'clock"
 - 14 "Catch a
 - 15 falling
 - 16 Rugged crest
 - 17 Adoption of
 - 18 volume
 - 19 Certain tests
 - 20 Actress Alice
 - 21 Roberson river
 - 22 Boat people
 - 23 Safe farms
 - 24 Baseball hit
 - 25 30 Jai —
 - 26 Seasoning
 - 27 City on the
 - 28 Rhone
 - 29 Dyeing method
 - 30 35
 - 31 36
 - 32 "— lovely as
 - 33 34
 - 35 36
 - 37 Israeli flag
 - 38 symbol
 - 39 Cutting room
 - 40 David's forte
 - 41 Planet seen
 - 42 after sunset
 - 43 Wealthy man
 - 44 Measure of
 - 45 volume
 - 46 "The Marble —"
 - 47 Porridge
 - 48 Influence
 - 49 Yog of
 - 50 baseball
 - 51 son-in-law
 - 52 Periods of
 - 53 deep sleep
 - 54 — impasse
 - 55 Riddle
 - 56 Sled to rest
 - 57 Study nook
 - 58 European finch
 - 59 Catlin
 - 60 Magna —
 - 61 Concerning
 - 62 Truck away
 - 63 Levelheaded
 - 64 Exchange
 - 65 Despicable
 - 66 "Jave —"
 - 67 Membrane
 - 68 Arabian port
 - 69 Braver —
 - 70 Small bird
 - 71 Alarm
 - 72 Acknowledges
 - 73 Gulf of Gabes
 - 74 Support
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 - 77 tion of
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 - 94 Alarm

Diagramless 21 X 21, by Nancy McCarthy

- ACROSS
- 1 Fathers
 - 2 Russian
 - 3 Island sea
 - 4 Barra of
 - 5 baseball
 - 6 Stay
 - 7 Denounced
 - 8 With GSA, 15th
 - 9 cart, flagpole
 - 10 Arched
 - 11 Scheme
 - 12 Sky — fox
 - 13 Sealing wax
 - 14 Ingredient
 - 15 Improve upon
 - 16 Painted
 - 17 Cohn of Macdo
 - 18 Ocean liner
 - 19 abaz.
 - 20 Malayan craft
 - 21 Zone
 - 22 Mexican sent
 - 23 Payment
 - 24 conditions
 - 25 Pitcher
 - 26 Angolia
 - 27 Sublet
 - 28 Portal
 - 29 Female ruff
 - 30 Money in Milan
 - 31 Spanish poet
 - 32 Army
 - 33 Bitter herb
 - 34 Sky color
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